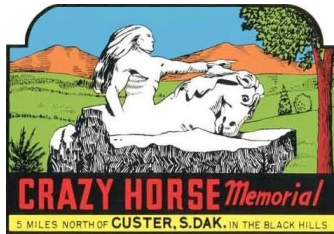


TRI-STATE EXCURSION



MONTANA - SOUTH DAKOTA - WYOMING



Students might wish to visit Crazy Horse Memorial in order to enhance the total learning opportunity of the APUSH Excursion. In the wake of Gutzon Borglum's completion of his Mount Rushmore masterpiece in 1939, Sioux leaders courted sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski to form a huge likeness of Crazy Horse atop nearby Thunderhead Mountain. As tribal spokesman Chief Henry Standing Bear explained, "My fellow chiefs and I would like the white man to know the red man has great heroes, too." Work on the project commenced in 1948 and remains ongoing.

Since no verifiable photographs exist of Crazy Horse (he refused to allow his soul to be captured by the white man's mysterious device), Ziolkowski created a composite image of the Sioux leader from "word pictures" provided by Indians who claimed to have known Crazy Horse during his short lifetime. When finished, the Crazy Horse sculpture will dwarf its neighboring Mount Rushmore counterpart. According to plan, the bare-chested Lakota warrior will be depicted riding a rambunctious horse, an outstretched arm pointing eastward from where white intruders came to wrest territory inhabited by the Sioux.

Today, a recognizable Crazy Horse has emerged from steady work on the mountain, but substantial rock remains to be shaped. Progress over the years has been painstakingly slow due to self-imposed reliance on financing from random sources—no government funds are accepted (two reported \$10 million offers were declined). Target date for completion is calculated best in decades instead of years.

Interestingly, the venture has been challenged by representatives of the Native American community, including descendants of Crazy Horse himself. Opposition centers around the sanctity of the Black Hills to the Sioux, reasoning that such a holy place should be preserved and enjoyed in its natural state rather than malformed by man into an earthly shrine unbefitting of the Native culture. Critics within the Lakota tribe have referred to the Crazy Horse sculpture as "pollution of the landscape" and "desecration of our Indian culture." Moreover, Crazy Horse's total disdain for the white world and known humility seem to run counter to being singled out by the Sioux Nation as its cultural hero, lauded by a huge stone carving generated by white people using devices invented by white ingenuity.

The Crazy Horse Memorial site includes an elaborate Visitor Complex with theater, museum, bookstore, restaurant, and gift shop. The mountain sculpture is plainly visible from the Viewing Veranda (outdoors) and the Wall of Windows (indoors).

Although suggested as an educationally supportive preface to the APUSH Excursion, visiting Crazy Horse Memorial is fully student-interest optional and not part of the actual three-day travel itinerary. The site has a modest admission fee which students must pay out-of-pocket.

